United Nations

A/58/487

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 December 2003
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 97

Operational activities for development

Report of the Second Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled:

"Operational activities for development:

"(a) Operational activities for development;

"(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 9th, 10th, 17th, 18th, 26th and 37th meetings, on 14, 21 and 22 October, 5 November and 11 December 2003. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.9, 10, 17, 18, 26 and 37). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 6 to 9 October (see A/C.2/58/SR.2-6).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 97
Operational activities for development

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/58/3)[1]

[1] A/58/3 (Part I) and A/58/3 (Part II) and Corr.1; for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/58/3).

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(a) Operational activities for development

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/58/168)

Note by the Secretariat on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/201 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/C.2/58/11)

Letter dated 1 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the ministerial declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China at their twenty-seventh annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 2003 (A/58/413)

(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries[2]

Report of the Secretary-General on raising public awareness of and support for South-South cooperation (A/58/345)

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/58/319)

Letter dated 14 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué adopted by the Chairmen/Coordinators of the Chapters of the Group of 77 at their thirty-fourth meeting, held at Geneva on 26 and 27 June 2003 (A/58/204)

4. At the 9th meeting, on 14 October, introductory statements under sub-item (a) were made by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Director of the Division for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.2/58/SR.9).

5. The Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States made statements under sub-item (a) at the 9th meeting, on 14 October, and under sub-item (b) at the 17th meeting, on 21 October (see A/C.2/58/SR.9 and 17).

6. At the 17th meeting, the Senior Policy Adviser, Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme made an introductory statement under sub-item (b) (A/C.2/58/SR.17).

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/58/39).

II. Consideration of proposals

(a) Operational activities for development

Draft decision proposed by the Vice-Chairperson

7. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/58/168) (see para. 14).

(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.24 and A/C.2/58/L.71

8. At its 26th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries" (A/C.2/58/L.24), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Stressing* that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

"*Recognizing* that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing South-South cooperation, not as a substitute for but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation, and in this context reiterating the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation,

"*Taking note* of the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77 at their twenty-seventh annual meeting, held in New York on 25 September 2003, in which the increased importance and relevance of South-South cooperation were re-emphasized,

"1. *Endorses* the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its thirteenth session and the decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at that session, and decides to change the name of the Committee to High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation;

"2. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation and on raising public awareness of and support for South-South cooperation;

"3. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen further the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as a separate entity and a focal point for South-South cooperation within the United Nations system, and recognizes that its activities should be perceived as an integral part of the overall development policy of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations system and that South-South cooperation should be addressed as a cross-cutting issue in the United Nations system;

"4. *Notes with interest* that South-South cooperation is having a positive impact on global, regional and national policies and actions in the economic, social and development fields in the developing countries, and urges developing countries and their partners to intensify South-South and triangular cooperation in these areas, as they contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

"5. *Recognizes* the urgent need to help strengthen the capacities of the developing countries, especially the least developed countries, to participate in and benefit from globalization and liberalization processes, and to this end welcomes the initiatives being undertaken at the subregional, regional, interregional and global levels towards establishing public-private partnership mechanisms, such as the World Trade Forum, aiming to enhance and expand South-South cooperation in trade and investment;

"6. *Reiterates* the urgent need to help strengthen institutions and centres of excellence in the South, especially at the regional and interregional levels, with a view to making more effective use of such entities towards improved South-South knowledge-sharing, networking, capacity-building, information and best practices exchanges, policy analysis and coordinated action among developing countries on major issues of common concern, and in this context encourages such institutions, centres of excellence as well as regional and subregional economic groupings to establish closer links and bridges among themselves, including through the Web of Information for Development of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme as it expands to become a main knowledge platform for resource facilities of the Programme;

"7. *Welcomes* the holding of the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation, in Marrakech, Morocco, from 16 to 19 December 2003, in accordance with the decision of the South Summit of Havana, calls upon developing countries, their development partners and relevant international organizations to participate actively in order to ensure the success of the Conference, looks forward to the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation as an important landmark in the efforts of developing countries, supported by their development partners, to increase the momentum and intensity of development cooperation, and in this context welcomes the initiative of holding a forum of non-governmental organizations and the private sector on the occasion of the Conference as the participation of these important development actors in the Conference;

"8. *Urges* all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts effectively to mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their

regular programmes and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives, including those contained in the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the first South Summit, the follow-up of the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation in Marrakech, as well as the preparation for the second South Summit in 2005;

"9. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South cooperation, reiterates in this context its decision taken in resolution 57/263 to include the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation in the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, and, in the same manner decides to include the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in the same Pledging Conference, and invites all countries, in particular developed countries, to support South-South and triangular cooperation through, inter alia, these funds;

"10. *Decides* to declare 19 December as the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, the date on which the Assembly endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and the International Decade on South-South Cooperation, beginning in 2005 and ending 2015, and in this connection designates the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as the coordinator for both of the initiatives within its existing human and financial resources;

"11. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session a sub-item entitled 'South-South cooperation for development', and requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to it at that session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation and the implementation of the present resolution."

9. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ulrika Cronenberg-Mossberg (Sweden), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries" (A/C.2/58/L.71), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.24.

10. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairperson orally corrected the text as follows:

Operative paragraph 12, which had read:

"12. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session a sub-item entitled 'South-South cooperation for development', and requests the Secretary-General to [report comprehensively] [submit to it] at that session [a comprehensive report] on the state of South-South cooperation and on the implementation of the present resolution".

was replaced by:

"12. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session a sub-item entitled 'South-South cooperation for development', and requests the Secretary-General to submit at that session a comprehensive

report on the state of South-South cooperation and on the implementation of the present resolution".

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.71, as orally corrected (see para. 13).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.71, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.24 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

The General Assembly,

Stressing that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing South-South cooperation, not as a substitute for but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation, and in this context reiterating the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation,

Taking note of the ministerial declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77 at their twenty-seventh annual meeting, held in New York on 25 September 2003,[1] in which the increased importance and relevance of South-South cooperation were re-emphasized,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its thirteenth session,[2] endorses the decisions adopted by the High-level Committee at that session[3] and decides to change the name of the Committee to High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, with no change in its mandate or in the scope of its activities;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation[4] and on raising public awareness of and support for South-South cooperation;[5]

3. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen further, within its available resources, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme as a separate entity and a focal point for South-South cooperation within the United Nations system, recognizes that its activities should be perceived as an integral part of the overall development policy of the United Nations system and the United Nations Development Programme and, in this context, calls upon United Nations funds and programmes and other entities of the United Nations development system to intensify efforts to mainstream technical and economic cooperation among developing countries by using relevant national, regional and international mechanisms in consultation with Member States;

4. *Notes with interest* that South-South cooperation can have a positive impact on global, regional and national policies and actions in the economic, social

[1] A/58/413, annex.
[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/58/39).
[3] Ibid., annex I.
[4] A/58/319.
[5] A/58/345.

and development fields in the developing countries, and urges developing countries and their partners to intensify South-South and triangular cooperation in these areas, as they contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[6]

5. *Recognizes* that regional integration initiatives between developing countries constitute an important and valuable form of South-South cooperation and that regional integration is a step towards beneficial integration into the world economy;

6. *Also recognizes* the urgent need to help strengthen the capacities of the developing countries, especially the least developed countries, to participate in and benefit from globalization and liberalization processes and, to this end, welcomes the initiatives being undertaken at the subregional, regional, interregional and global levels towards establishing public-private partnership mechanisms aiming to enhance and expand South-South cooperation in trade and investment and, in this context, notes the initiatives of the World Trade Forum;

7. *Reiterates* the urgent need to help strengthen institutions and centres of excellence in the South, especially at the regional and interregional levels, with a view to making more effective use of such entities towards improved South-South knowledge-sharing, networking, capacity-building, information and best practices exchanges, policy analysis and coordinated action among developing countries on major issues of common concern and, in this context, encourages such institutions and centres of excellence, as well as regional and subregional economic groupings, to establish closer links and bridges among themselves, inter alia, through the Web of Information for Development of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme;

8. *Notes with interest* the holding of the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 15 to 19 December 2003, and calls upon developing countries, and encourages their development partners and relevant international organizations, to participate actively in the Conference in order to ensure its success and increase the momentum and intensity of South-South cooperation;

9. *Urges* all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts effectively to mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programmes and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives and, in this regard, takes note of the initiatives contained in the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the first South Summit[7] and the follow-up to the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation in Marrakesh, as well as the preparations for the second South Summit in 2005;

10. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South cooperation, reiterates in this context its decision in resolution 57/263

[6] See resolution 55/2.

[7] A/55/74, annex II.

of 20 December 2002 to include the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation in the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, as long as it exists and, in the same manner, decides to include the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in the same Pledging Conference, and invites all countries, in particular developed countries, to support South-South and triangular cooperation through, inter alia, these funds, bearing in mind the need for these funds to continue to use such resources in an effective manner;

11. *Decides* to declare 19 December, the date on which the General Assembly endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[8] as the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation;

12. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session a sub-item entitled "South-South cooperation for development", and requests the Secretary-General to submit at that session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation and on the implementation of the present resolution.

14. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women

The General Assembly takes note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.[9]

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[9] A/58/168.